

DANIEL T. KILDEE
5TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

CHIEF DEPUTY WHIP

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRADE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

WASHINGTON OFFICE

200 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3611
(202) 225-6393 (FAX)

DISTRICT OFFICE

601 SOUTH SAGINAW STREET, SUITE 403
FLINT, MI 48502
(810) 238-8627
(810) 238-8658 (FAX)

WWW.DANKILDEE.HOUSE.GOV

/REPDKILDEE
 @REPDKILDEE

July 8, 2022

The Honorable Michael S. Regan
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Administrator Regan:

I am writing to encourage the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to carefully consider all relevant scientific evidence when developing the interim decision for regulating the use of atrazine in agriculture. With atrazine being such a key tool for our growers, I urge the agency to rigorously evaluate the potential impacts of atrazine use, before issuing a final determination.

Atrazine is the second most widely used herbicide in the U.S. for control of a variety of grasses and broadleaf weeds. It is used on 75 million acres annually and is applied to corn, sorghum and sugarcane. Corn accounts for most of the use with approximately 59 to 64 million pounds applied annually. Growers prefer atrazine, because it is economical and is highly effective against a broad spectrum of weeds. Although other herbicides are available, these alternatives result in increased expenditures and possible yield losses due to lower efficacy.

As a Great Lakes advocate, I recognize the importance of protecting our water and environment. In Congress, I continue to advocate for environmental protections and the right to clean water. I also represent one of the largest corn producing counties in Michigan. It is my firm belief that we must balance environmental protection with ensuring that our farmers can provide affordable food and energy for Americans.

Currently, the concentration equivalent level of concern (CE-LOC) for atrazine is 15 parts per billion (ppb), set in 2020. In August 2021, EPA announced that it was reevaluating its atrazine CE-LOC and was considering the adoption of a significantly lower CE-LOC of 3.4 ppb. As you finalize the final CE-LOC for atrazine, it is important that farmers can effectively manage grasses and broadleaf weeds and that the CE-LOC is not so low that it would render using atrazine ineffective leading farmers to instead turn to alternative weed mitigation strategies such as tilling.

I thank the agency for their continued support of American farmers and businesses.

Sincerely,

Daniel T. Kildee
MEMBER OF CONGRESS